

Environmental Management

Fiscal Year 1998 Key Accomplishments

- A new cost baseline and schedule were established for moving spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins to interim storage.
- The Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project was initiated to study groundwater and soil contamination issues.
- More than 607,000 metric tons of contaminated soil and waste materials were excavated from near the Columbia River and disposed of.
- B Plant was deactivated four years ahead of schedule.
- C Reactor was placed in Interim Safe Storage.
- The Waste Receiving and Processing Facility began processing low-level and transuranic waste in September 1998.
- DOE and BNFL Inc. signed a historic privatization agreement for immobilizing Hanford tank waste.

Tri-Party Agreement Sets Cleanup Agenda

The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, also known as the Tri-Party Agreement, is a significant factor in Hanford cleanup activities. Signed in 1989 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DOE, and the Washington State Department of Ecology, the agreement establishes a schedule and milestones for cleanup activities on the Hanford Site.

The Hanford Strategic Plan establishes geographic and material goals for Hanford Site cleanup activities. The **geographic goals** divide the site into five geographic areas and provide a description of the characteristics each area will possess for the current vision of cleanup as of 2046. The seven **material goals** are focused on cleaning up specific types of materials, such as soil and solid waste.

In the following pages, the material goals are treated as individual chapters or sections. Accomplishments for each material goal area are reported in sub-sections that reflect the Hanford Strategic Plan's four Success Indicators for Environmental Management. The indicators, which serve to quantify the progress of cleanup activities, are:

- reduction of risks to the worker, the public, and the environment
- greater amounts of land and other resources recovered for other (private and governmental) uses
- reduction/elimination of the total amount of inventory and materials remaining to be cleaned up
- reduction/elimination of costly mortgages (payment for long-term surveillance and maintenance).

A fifth indicator, *innovative technology applications*, is not currently part of the strategic plan, but has been added to this report to demonstrate the role technology plays in accomplishing cleanup objectives.

Reactors on the River Goal:

- remove and stabilize spent fuel, facilities, and waste sites
- protect groundwater and the Columbia River
- protect people, the environment, and cultural/natural resources.

Columbia River Goal:

- congressional action pending on Wild and Scenic River designation
- use restricted to protect ecological, cultural, and Native American resources.

(This goal is not shown in the table at right because it contains a unique set of material categories, which are being identified via the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project.)

Central Plateau Goal:

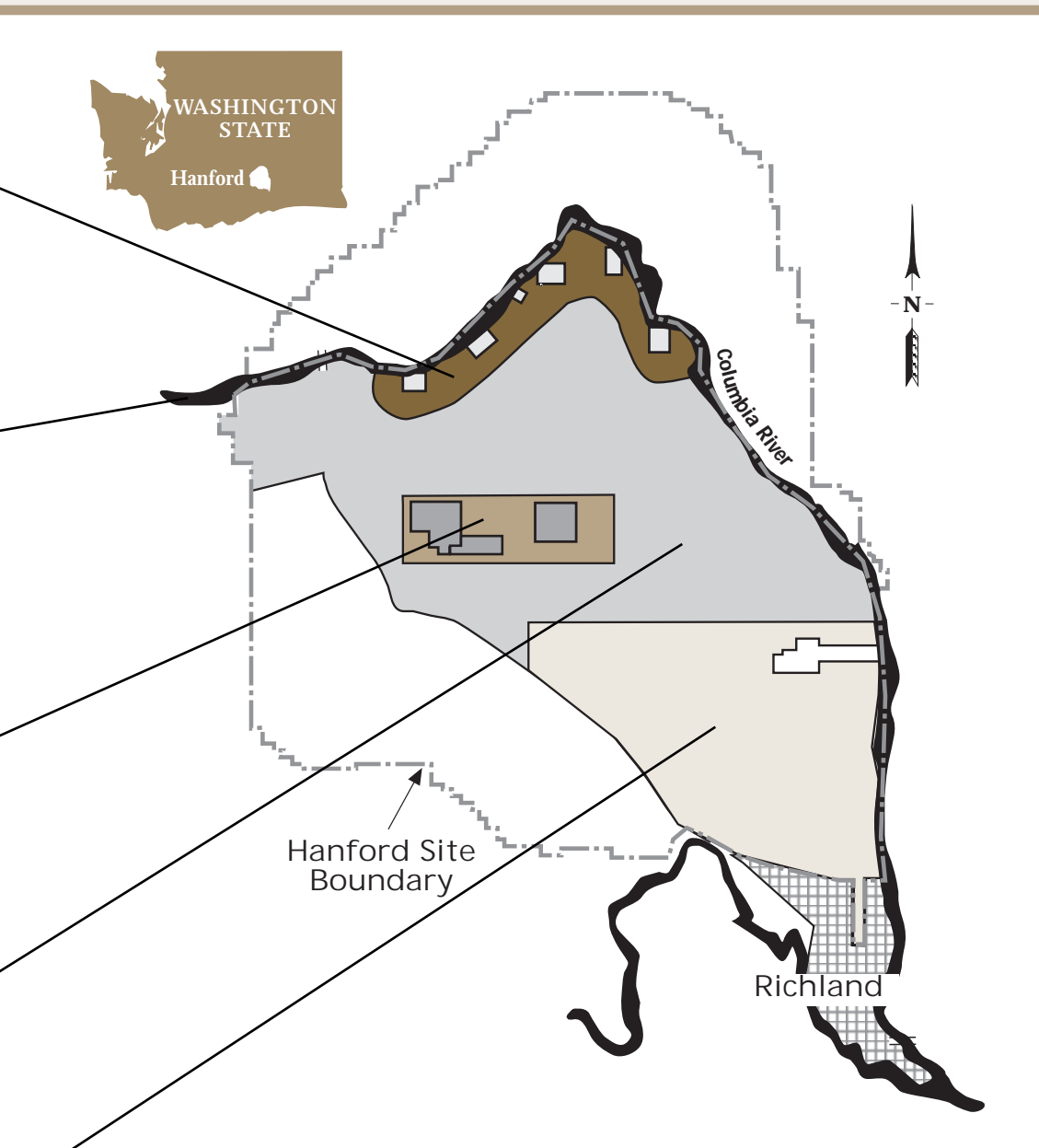
- long-term storage for the collection and management of nuclear materials
- cleanup and disposal area for wastes that remain onsite.

Central Core Goal:

- retain federal ownership as boundary areas for safety and waste management operations in 200 Area
- available for other programs consistent with designated cultural and ecosystem values.

South 600 Area Goal:

- remediate for industrial and economic diversification opportunities
- land leased for private and public uses to support regional industrial and economic development
- excess land in 1100 Area transitioned to non-federal ownership.



Summary of Relationships Between Material and Geographic Goals

This table reflects the relationships between material and geographic goals in cleaning up the Hanford Site. The material goals define objectives for cleaning up specific types of materials; the geographic goals identify the locations where the materials are present and must be cleaned. Once material cleanup goals have been met, the vision of Hanford provided by the geographic goals will be realized.

Material	Geographic Areas			
	Reactors on the River	Central Plateau	South 600 Area	Central Core
Spent Fuel	✓	✓	✓	
Groundwater	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soil Sites	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilities Transition	✓	✓	✓	
Facilities D&D	✓	✓	✓	✓
Solid Waste	✓	✓		✓
Radioactive Tank Waste		✓		